



INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

Bush considering 'orderly' auto bankruptcy

By JENNIFER LOVEN,
AP White House

Correspondent
WASHINGTON – The Bush administration is looking at “orderly” bankruptcy as a possible way to deal with the desperately ailing U.S. auto industry *Page B1*

WORLD NEWS

Rwandan massacre mastermind convicted of genocide

By SUKHDEV CHHATBAR
and DONNA BRYSON,
Associated Press

ARUSHA, Tanzania – A former Rwandan army colonel was convicted Thursday of genocide and crimes against humanity for masterminding the killings of more than half a million people in a 100-day slaughter in 1994. *Page B6*

SPORTS NEWS

Yankees introduce C.C. Sabathia, A.J. Burnett

NEW YORK -- Wearing a hard hat and a million-dollar grin, CC Sabathia toured the Yankee Stadium construction site Wednesday *Page B10*

EU clears KLM takeover of Martinair

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union regulators on Wednesday approved the takeover of Dutch charter and cargo airline Martinair by the Air France-KLM group.

The deal will see KLM, the Dutch branch of the carrier, take over the remaining 50 percent stake in Martinair from Danish shipping company A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S.

The European Commission said the effects of the takeover on prices “would be limited” because Martinair is already 50 percent owned by KLM and the charter airline is dependent on independent tour operators to fill up its seats.

EU regulators conducted a consumer survey at Amsterdam’s Schiphol airport to assess whether they would continue to fly with Martinair or KLM if their prices increased. The survey found that they would seek to book their vacations with rival charter companies, the Commission said. The EU’s Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes said she was now satisfied that the deal would not lessen competition on long-haul vacation flights



Photo Copyright © Marcel Venema - Dutch Ops

from Amsterdam. Both airlines are based out of Schiphol and their services overlap on several long-haul routes, including Toronto, Vancouver, Miami, Havana

and the Dutch Antilles islands in the Caribbean. KLM had dropped an earlier bid in 1999 to take over Martinair outright due to EU competition concerns. □

Presenting the Ferragamo Pre-Spring 2009 collections

“Holiday Champagne Celebration” at Salvatore Ferragamo



ORANJESTAD - Salvatore Ferragamo opened their doors for invited guests this past Saturday evening. *Page 2*

Premium Chicken Line
Crispy or Grilled



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fashion lives here



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MALL

Shopping night

Te cu 8'or di anochi. Dia 22, 27 y 30 di December y dia 2 cu 3 di Januari

Presenting the Ferragamo Pre-Spring 2009 collections

"Holiday Champagne Celebration" at Salvatore Ferragamo



ORANJESTAD - Salvatore Ferragamo opened their doors for invited guests this past Saturday evening, welcoming them to indulge themselves in their fabulous 2009 pre-spring collection. It was a festive holiday affair with seemingly never ending flow of Moët & Chandon. To everyone's surprise, each guest left with a bag of filled with Salvatore Ferragamo treats including samples of their newest



fragrances and lotions. Salvatore Ferragamo's



popular boutique has been open established on Aruba for many years - at first at the beginning of Main St. and now relocated to Renaissance Mall in Oranjestad. With lots of light, a spacious and warm atmosphere, it is an exquisite place to shop.



Their staff is knowledgeable and always ready to assist store guests with information about the unique products on offer. Their new collection is fabulous with many new items, such as gorgeous bags and shoes, and very stylish men's shoes. Ferragamo is known for its footwear - always stylish and comfortable, subdued and yet refined. Their bags, scarves, belts, etc. are exquisitely unique.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the brand new Salvatore Ferragamo in Renaissance Mall.



Photos by Julia Renfro



Rev. Jackson accepted Eman's invitation to be guest speaker at the party's convention in 2009

Rev. Jesse Jackson meets with AVP leader Mike Eman & Benny Sevinger



ORANJESTAD – On Wednesday, December 17, 2008, an AVP delegation met with the president of the Rainbow Coalition, Rev. Jesse Jackson, here in Aruba. They met in the VIP room of the Reina Beatrix International Airport after Jackson's arrival on the island in a cruise ship. Representing the AVP were its leader Mike Eman and Benny Sevinger, both senators of the Aruban parliament.

Mike Eman welcomed Mr. Jackson to Aruba and expressed the honor it was to receive Jackson in Aruba. Eman continued explaining that Jesse Jackson's work is an inspiration all over the world. The leader of the AVP has met Mr. Jackson twice before during two Democratic Conventions in the US. "Mr. Jackson's work in the civil rights movement is of historic proportions," according to Mr. Eman.

Eman and Sevinger invited Reverend Jackson to deliver a speech during their party's convention next year. Mr. Jackson's reply was positive and explained he would be honored to do so.

Rev. Jackson is a well known figure in the United States, where he has been working to improve civil rights for minorities since the sixties. He stood beside Dr. Martin Luther King when he was assassinated and has been on the forefront of the civil rights movement ever since. Reverend Jackson is also known for his humanitarian work around the world including the Caribbean. Eman has also been involved in humanitarian work in Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere. The leaders also exchanged ideas and experiences about their work for the needy Caribbean island.

The conversations went in a very pleasant atmosphere and before ending the meeting, Mr. Eman asked reverend Jackson to extend the best wishes and congratulations from the Aruban people to president elect Obama on his historic victory, on inauguration day. □

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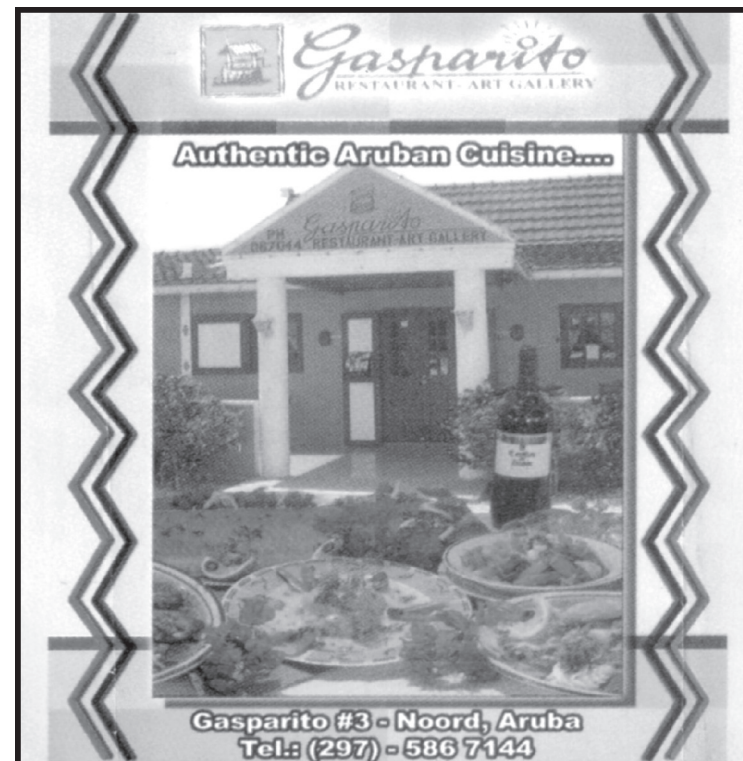
Radisson
ARUBA
RESORT, CASINO & SPA

Mrs. Vernice McGriff honored at the Aruba Beach Club



ORANJESTAD - Recently at Aruba Beach Club, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Francis Jacobs at the Aruba Beach Club which they call their home away from home. Mrs. Vernice Mc.Griff was honored as ambassador of goodwill for the Island of Aruba.

Pictured: Vernice together with Izaira from the Aruba Beach Club. □



Rouxana de Weever-Koolman chosen as Employee of the Year

Aruba Bank celebrates Holiday dinner in Marriott's Ballroom



PALM BEACH - During the Aruba Bank Holiday celebration dinner in the Ballroom of the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino, Rouxana de Weever-Koolman was honored as Employee of the Year for

2008. She works in the Human Resources Department of the Aruba Bank. The three employees that were nominated were Nathalie Kelly-Hoevertsz of the Credit Administration Department, Edna Rodriguez-

Boekhoudt of the Corporate Department and Rouxana de Weever-Koolman of Human Resources Department.

The Management and Staff extend their sincere congratulations to Nathalie Kelly-Hoevertsz, Edna Rodriguez-Boekhoudt and the Employee of the Year Rouxana de Weever-Koolman, for her tremendous hard work and dedication to her job.

The Holiday event was full of laughter and fun including a fancy cocktail reception and an opportunity to take a picture with Santa Claus.

General Director of Aruba Bank Mr. Edwin Tromp gave an important speech recapping 2008 and looking forward to 2009. The management thanked all



employees for their hard work over the past year and wished them all a very happy holidays this season.

After a fantastic dinner, the Aruba Bank staff headed straight to the

dance floor to the most popular sounds from Claudius Phillips and Oreo. As a grand finale for the evening, a raffle was held and fantastic prizes were rewarded to the winners. □



NEW ARRIVALS

Salvatore Ferragamo

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WWW.FERRAGAMO.COM

Fund-raising for school with “NO BOOKS” kick starts



NOORD - An amazing 1st Event unfolded before everyone's eyes last Sunday at the 'Scol Primario Kudawecha'. Yes, you had to see it to believe it, like most things in life! As early as 8am parents arrived one by one with a smile on there face and arms full, creating an abundance of Quality Cakes & Snacks for all to enjoy on this special day.

The Head Mistress Chinda Semeleer opened the day welcoming everyone and then introduced Charlotte Wolff the President of the 'Parent Commission' who welcomed everyone to 'Ban Sera Conoci' & wished them a Fun day together.

Then Melvin the MC for the day introduced a student & her Mom to sing in perfect Harmony. This was followed by songs & dance performed by Club di Movimiento displaying there very colorful and latest upbeat routines, well done! With the Smell of Cotton Candy & Popcorn in the air the children were entertained by Que-Que the Clown with his magic tricks, games and balloon animals, with his high energy children followed him back & forth.

The Dino Jump and Face Painting brought more FUN, FUN & more FUN!!! For all the children to enjoy! Melvin the MC then introduced

the Raffle with a Top End Prize List!

THE LUCKY DIP – EVERYONE'S A WINNER ended the day with screams of delight from all Children attending 'Scol Primario Kudawecha'.

YES, every Child won a Special Activity Prize including the following.....

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A special Thank You to our Lucky Dip- Everyone's a WINNER!!! & to you Ludwig for all your support in creating that winning feeling! & this all happened for a very good cause NO BOOKS!!! In a BRAND NEW LIBRARY.

Teachers from the 'Scol of Kudawecha' are reflecting back to us that the Children have changed they have bonded & are helping each other in different was, they seem more thoughtful & caring.

On behalf of the Parent Commission of 'Scol Primario Kudawecha' we wish to say a BIG thank you for all your support of which the ripples are still making an impact on one & all, especially the Children



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Believe it or not, Ponson could be model to follow

By Peter Schmuck

It has been more than three years since the Orioles finally got fed up with the off-the-field antics of pitcher Sidney Ponson and released him - without pay - for conduct detrimental to the team. So much time has passed, in fact, that the news of his arbitration hearing today has been met with a collective yawn from the many Orioles fans who would just as soon forget that unhappy chapter in the team's unhappy recent history. Really, why should you care whether a rich, young guy gets an additional \$11 million or a rich, old guy gets to keep the same amount?

It's not going to raise or lower the price of your season-ticket plan, if you still have one, and it probably isn't going to have any significant effect on the Orioles' payroll, because most teams wouldn't blink at throwing \$11 million into the street these days. The people who care, however, care a lot. Ponson has made some money in his career and probably is doing fine, but an additional \$11 million would certainly make for a long and happy life in Aruba or South Florida. Orioles owner Peter Angelos wouldn't miss the money if he had to cut that check, but I've got to believe he cares a great deal about the principle involved, and I know he cares even more about winning this kind of dispute. And though Angelos and Ponson are considered the principals in this case, they actually are merely players in a much bigger production. The parties who care the most about the outcome are the people from Major League Baseball's central office and the lawyers from the Major League Baseball Players Association who will fill the hearing room with \$1,000 suits and fancy briefcases and actually argue the case before the three-person panel headed by baseball arbitrator Shyam Das. For them, there is even more at stake.

They will be fighting over the sanctity of the guaranteed contract, one of the cornerstones of the economic system that was put in place at the dawn of the free-agent era. The hearing is scheduled to begin today in Baltimore and is expected to last three days. The decision will come later, perhaps much later considering how long it took just to get to the hearing phase, and the ramifications could be significant. Let's review the facts: Ponson was a highly talented young

pitcher who came up through the Orioles' system and seemed ticketed for stardom. He also was a wild child who loved to party and wore his devil-may-care attitude proudly on his sleeve. The more successful he got, it seemed, the more fun he tried to have after hours and during the offseason, which led to a series of incidents that would eventually persuade the Orioles to terminate his contract.

The most famous instance of his misbehavior was a Christmas Day incident in Aruba that involved an alleged assault on a local judge and led to Ponson's being jailed for 11 days while awaiting disposition of the case. He also had a series of drunken driving incidents, the last of which precipitated the end of his Orioles career while he still had more than one year remaining on his guaranteed contract. □




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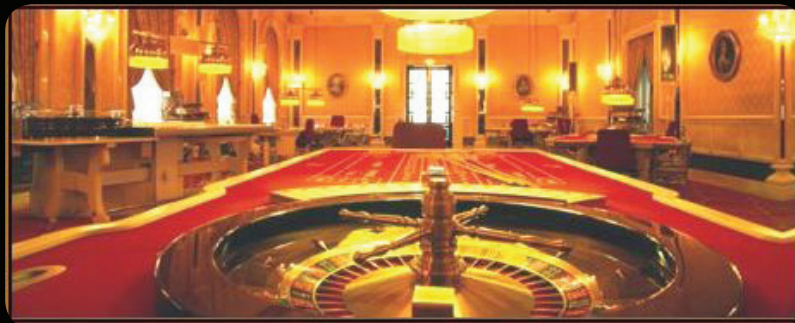
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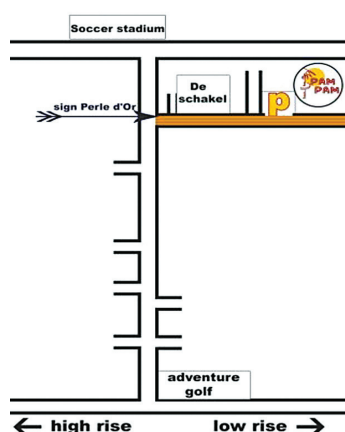


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Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among

other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban

florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

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Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of

preparation, which presently, in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone: 5877710 or 5932660

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VS

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VS



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Texaco management and staff party at Mr Jazz



PASEO HERENCIA – Recently the management and staff of Texaco enjoyed a great night out at Mr Jazz. Due to the expert guidance

of executive chef Vittorio the food was fantastic. In the drinks department nothing was left to be desired since



the service staff at Mr Jazz know very well on how to

treat their esteemed guests. Accompanied by live music from in-house band The Belongo's there was after dinner dancing which only heightened the atmosphere. Great food, great people, excellent service, nothing



short of the best for the management and staff of Texaco, who are known on the island for delivering quality fuel and fantastic service to every customer. □

Photos by Julia Renfro



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Elaine Singh chosen as "Employee of the Year"

Digicel celebrates holiday dinner at Renaissance

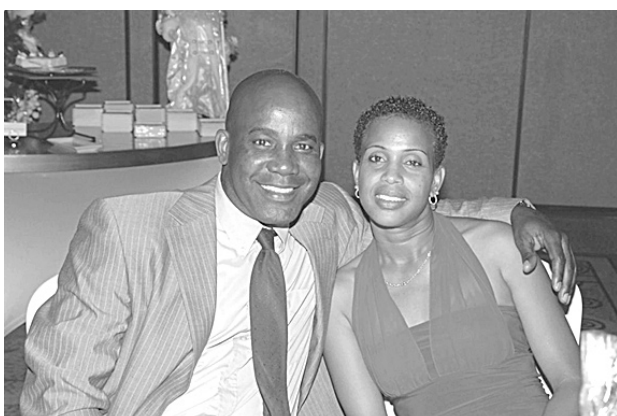
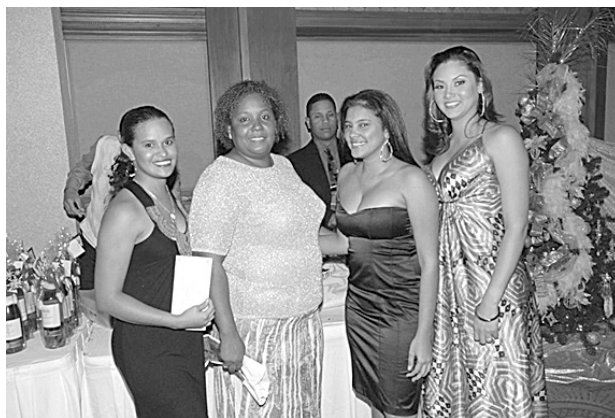


ORANJESTAD - The Renaissance Convention Center was full last weekend of employees, family and invited guests of Digicel Aruba for their annual Christmas Dinner and celebration. During this annual tradition, the management rewards the individuals who stood apart from the rest by going above and beyond expectations in their job. This year, Elaine Singh from the Department of Sales and Marketing was chosen as "Employee of the Year". General Manager Michelle Winklaar thanked all of the employees of Digicel for



a successful 2008 and prepared them for the great things yet to come in the year 2009. The two finalist for Employee of the Year were Tania Mercera and Leeandro "Lee" Querero.

After the recognitions and a fabulous gourmet holiday dinner, employees and guests enjoyed themselves on the dance floor to the great sounds of Claudius Phillips y OREO.



De Palm Tours employee anniversary celebration



Gregory Maduro and Luther Campbell celebrated 5 years of service. Elaine Carti from the Executive Office celebrated 5 years with the company and from Transient Sales department; Christina Romano-Leyba, Arlene McLeod and Sabine Scheepers all celebrated 5 years working with De Palm Tours. Congratulations to each one of you, your contribution to De Palm Tours has been very valuable throughout the years. □

ORANJESTAD - Recently De Palm Tours celebrated the anniversary of some special employees. Celebrating their anniversary were Glenda Angela from Transient Sales & Reservations department who celebrated 25 years with De Palm Tours. Sandra Vrolijk from representation Department, Lucia Wouters-Croes from Human Resources department and Alberto Gomez of De Palm Island all celebrated 15 years with the company. Raymond Martes from De Palm Island and Gilberto Perez-Blanco from Distribution department celebrated 10 years of service. There were also 5-year anniversaries, from the Bus Department better known as Bruno Tours; Raymond Hernandez,



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 Place: Talk Of The Town Time: 6:00 PM

New Winners at Crystal and Seaport Casinos for Christmas

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Werleman, Bellandia Jimenez Suares, Lonardo Maduro, Luis Garsa, and Aida Danies won fabulous prizes. The winners are presented her in this collection of photos. The big prizes totaling afl. 15,000 will



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be awarded on Dec 22 at 8 PM in the Seaport Casino while an even larger assortment of prizes totaling afl 20,000 will

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a gar-

den full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to

splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

day mornings with a spectacular breakfast buffet will keep you entertained as well.

A hot tip: Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at www.bugaloe.com. Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.



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Bush considering 'orderly' auto bankruptcy



U.S. President George W. Bush listens to questions at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, December 18, 2008.

REUTERS/Jim Young (UNITED STATES)

By JENNIFER LOVEN,
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON – The Bush administration is looking at “orderly” bankruptcy as a possible way to deal with the desperately ailing U.S. auto industry, the White House said Thursday as carmakers readied more plant closings and a half million Americans filed new jobless claims.

With General Motors, Chrysler and the rest of Detroit anxiously holding its breath and waiting for a federal rescue, White House press secretary Dana Perino said, “There’s an orderly way to do bankruptcies that provides for more of a soft landing. I think that’s what we would be talking about.”

President George W. Bush, asked about an auto bailout, said he hadn’t decided what he would do but didn’t want to leave a mess for Barack Obama who takes office a month from Saturday.

Continued on Page B2

Lawyer: Ill. governor wiretaps illegally obtained

By CHRISTOPHER WILLS,
Associated Press Writer
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – A lawyer for Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich told state lawmakers Thursday that the federal wiretaps at the heart of the pay-to-play allegations against his client were illegally obtained, and therefore should be kept out of any impeachment proceedings. The wiretaps are crucial to the federal charges filed against Blagojevich last week. Prosecutors say they caught the Democratic governor discussing efforts to auction off Barack Obama’s U.S. Senate seat and pressure a hospital executive for campaign donations. Genson told the impeachment



Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich talks to the media at his home before jogging in Chicago, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008. Blagojevich said Wednesday he is ready to tell his side of the political scandal to the people of Illinois and that he would do so no later than Thursday.

(AP Photo/Paul Beaty)

committee that it shouldn’t consider any material from the wiretaps, saying the evidence was “illegally obtained.”

Earlier on MSNBC, Genson said the governor maintains

his innocence:

“He’s telling me that he’s not guilty, he’s telling me that he wants to fight.”

Continued on Page B3



In this photo provided by the Las Vegas News Bureau, people play in the snow in front of the Las Vegas welcome sign in Las Vegas on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008.

(AP Photo/Las Vegas News Bureau, Darrin Bush)

Las Vegas gets record Dec. snowfall, 3.6 inches

By KEN RITTER,
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS – Flights resumed in and out of Las Vegas, but schools and highways were closed Thursday after a record-setting snowfall coated marquees on the Strip, weighed down palm trees and blanketed surrounding mountain areas.

The city awoke to clear weather after a storm that left 3.6 inches at McCarran International Airport. It was biggest December snowfall on record there, and the worst for any month since a 7 1/2-inch accumulation in January 1979, forecasters said.

The storm Wednesday and early Thursday also dumped snow or rain and snarled travel in other parts of Nevada, much of southern California and parts of northern Arizona.

Continued on Page B5

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President George W. Bush answers a question during a meeting of the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008. ‘Under normal circumstances, no question bankruptcy court is the best way to work through credit and debt and restructuring,’ Bush said of the U.S. auto industry at AEI. ‘These aren’t normal circumstances. That’s the problem.’

BANKRUPTCY

Continued from Page B1

Bush, like Perino, spoke of the idea of bankruptcies orchestrated by the federal government as a possible way to go — without committing to it.

“Under normal circumstances, no question bankruptcy court is the best way to work through credit and debt and restructuring,” he said during a speech and question-and-answer session at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank. “These aren’t normal circumstances. That’s the problem.”

Perino said the White House was “very close” to a decision — though she wouldn’t give a timetable. She emphasized there were still several possible approaches to assisting the

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

automakers, including short-term loans from the Treasury Department’s \$700 billion Wall Street bailout program.

The Big Three automakers said anew that bankruptcy wasn’t the answer, as did an official of the United Auto Workers who called the idea unworkable and even dangerous. GM said a report that it and Chrysler had restarted talks to combine was untrue.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Capitol Hill that grim new unemployment data heightened the urgency for the administration “to prevent the imminent insolvency of the domestic auto industry.”

The California Democrat said Bush has the legal authority to act now, and should attach the accountability standards that were included in a \$14

billion House-passed and Bush-supported carmaker bailout that died in the Senate last week. That plan would have given the government, through a Bush-appointed “car czar,” veto power over major business decisions at any auto company that received federal loans.

Pelosi spoke after the government announced that initial claims for unemployment benefits totaled a seasonally adjusted 554,000 last week.

The comments in Washington came a day after Chrysler LLC announced it was closing all its North American manufacturing plants for at least a month as it, General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. await word on government action. General Motors also has been closing plants, and it and Chrysler have said they might not have enough money to pay their bills in a matter of weeks.

Prices of GM and Ford stocks were down sharply Thursday after the remarks out of the White House. Ford, unlike General Motors and Chrysler, is not seeking billions in federal bailout loans, but a collapse of the other two could hurt Ford as well.

Alan Reuther, the United Auto Workers’ legislative director, said the union urged the administration during a meeting this week to follow the provisions included in the House-passed auto aid bill.

Congressional aides in both parties who have been closely

following the discussions suggested the talk of bankruptcy could be a tactic to extract more hefty concessions from the companies and union in exchange for granting short-term loans from Treasury’s financial industry rescue fund. Perino said one factor preventing an announcement of action by the administration is that discussions continue with the various sides that would have to sign on to a managed bankruptcy — entities such as labor and equity holders in addition to the companies themselves.

A senior administration official said the talks between Bush officials and the Big Three and their stakeholders amount to information-gathering, not negotiating.

The White House has repeatedly emphasized its opposition to “disorderly bankruptcy” — presumably a Chapter 7 filing that would effectively shut down a company and require liquidation of assets. That has left on the table the possibility of forcing one or more automakers into a Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which allows a firm to keep operating while under a court’s purview.

Harlan Platt, who teaches corporate turnarounds at Northeastern University in Boston, said the government may be waiting for an offer of an ownership stake in the companies, much as it received in return for capital plowed

into banks. “You really have to ask the question: If this is good enough for Wall Street, why isn’t it good enough for Detroit?” he said.

On Thursday, spokesmen for Chrysler, GM and Ford generally referred to their previous comments that bankruptcy was not a workable solution. The car companies argue that no one would buy a vehicle from a bankrupt company for fear that the company might not be around to honor warranties.

“We continue to work with the administration to find a solution to this liquidity crisis,” said GM spokesman Tony Cervone.

Chrysler spokeswoman Shawn Morgan noted previous statements against bankruptcy by CEO Robert Nardelli. Financing for even a prepackaged bankruptcy would be difficult to get in the current tight credit market, Chrysler has said.

The National Automobile Dealers Association also spoke out against bankruptcy for car companies “in any way shape or form, orderly or disorderly, prepackaged or unpackaged, managed or unmanaged,” said spokesman Bailey Wood.

Bush said the auto industry is “obviously very fragile” and he is worried about what an out-and-out collapse without Washington involvement “would do to the psychology” of the markets.

“There still is a lot of uncertainty,” he said. □

Urban areas struggle to find grocers, fresh food

By SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER,

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Selma Lozoya didn't realize how tough it would be to help her obese mother lose weight until she had to forage for fresh groceries in the inner city.

For Lozoya, 17, not having a driver's license was part of the challenge. But the dearth of supermarkets in her South Los Angeles neighborhood choked with liquor stores, auto repair shops and warehouses made it even harder.

"I can't drive yet so I'm not gonna do anything extraordinary like jump on my bike and ride it for two or three miles and ride it back with tons of stuff on it, oh no," said Lozoya.

Seizing control of her kitchen, Lozoya helped her mom shed 50 pounds by banning lard from tamales and poaching chicken instead of frying it — and she is expanding her efforts to help her neighbors.

Lozoya is working to bring better food to one of the poorest communities in America, where neon lights illuminate a greasy fast-food vista and obesity and diabetes are rampant. While grocery stores and healthy restaurants are scarce, corner stores are stocked with beer, cigarettes, fried snacks and fatty sweets.

Lozoya's work with high school classmates to urge bodegas to stock healthier options is part of a larger campaign nationwide by nutritionists and community activists to eradicate so-called food deserts.

"Deserts are naturally occurring things," said Joanne Kim, chief operating officer of the Community Coalition of South Los Angeles. "We call this food apartheid because people have chosen to locate elsewhere even though there is substantial purchasing power here."

Between the three major Southern California grocery chains — Ralphs, Albertsons and Vons — there are six supermarkets in South Los Angeles, serving a population of about 688,000. By comparison, 19 supermarkets serve West



Selma Lozoya checks stocks of milk, yogurt and fruit juices at Los Compadres Market, which has a good variety of healthful food available, in South Los Angeles Friday, Aug. 22, 2008. In the poorest parts of Los Angeles, a grocery store or a sit-down restaurant can be hard to come by, a reality local officials fault for the higher rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems that plague the area disproportionately.

(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

Los Angeles' population of about 395,000.

Retailers blame theft in urban supermarkets, high employment turnover and lack of space for choosing to locate their stores elsewhere.

While farmers markets and

trucks peddling fruits and vegetables have taken root in South Los Angeles, they are inconsistent and inadequate for the area's population, Kim said. Some cities are trying to get more supermarkets into urban areas. □

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ILL GOVERNOR

Continued from Front Page

The panel was expected to hear later Thursday from the state's top internal watchdog, who says his own past probes of the Blagojevich administration have turned up improper contracts, incomplete records and sloppy handling of tax money.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Lisa Madigan denied a request by Genson to have the state pay for Blagojevich's impeachment defense. The move was all the more significant because Genson said federal officials are seeking to freeze the governor's campaign fund — \$3.6 million as of June — a source Blagojevich could tap to pay his legal bills.

Madigan's office said the impeachment review is a case against Blagojevich's capacity as governor and isn't a court action — a classification that doesn't entitle the governor to taxpayer-funded legal representation.

Genson also appeared before the House panel Wednesday and challenged it on multiple fronts. He said three members should be removed, the committee's rules should be changed and it should not consider accusations in a criminal complaint against the governor. Blagojevich, who left his home Thursday morning without speaking to reporters, has been under siege since his arrest last week. He got some good news Wednesday when the court rejected Madigan's claim that the governor's legal troubles made him unfit to serve.

The court's decision renewed calls from Republicans for a special election to choose Obama's successor in the Senate. They argue that neither Blagojevich nor Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn — who would take over if Blagojevich goes — should be allowed to make the appointment. Genson said he doesn't expect Blagojevich will make an appointment.

"Harry Reid said that they're not going to accept anybody he picks," said Genson, referring to the Senate majority leader. "Why would he do that?"

Blagojevich spokesman Lucio Guerrero said he didn't know if Genson was correct about the governor's intentions.

The Illinois House has appointed a 21-member committee to review the possibility of impeachment. The panel, divided 12-9 between Democrats and Republicans, will recommend whether the full House should move to impeach Blagojevich. If that happened, the state Senate would then decide whether the governor is guilty. □

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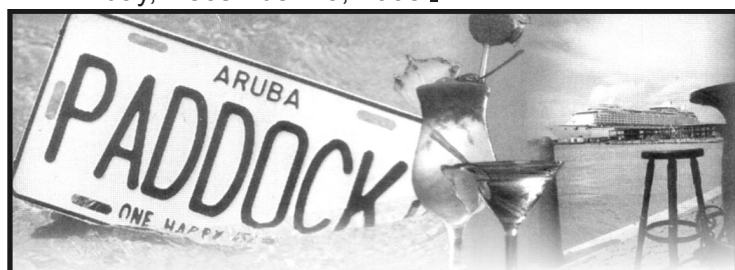
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Obama looking at \$850B jolt to the economy

By JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Anxious to jolt the U.S. economy back to life, President-elect Barack Obama appears to be zeroing in on a stimulus package of about \$850 billion, a figure that rivals drastic government actions to fight the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Obama has not settled on a grand total, but after consulting with outside economists of all political stripes, his advisers have begun telling Congress the stimulus should be bigger than the \$600 billion initially envisioned, congressional officials said Wednesday.

Obama is promoting a recovery plan that would feature spending on roads and other infrastructure projects, energy-efficient government buildings, new and renovated schools and environmentally friendly technologies.

There would also be some form of tax relief, according to the Obama team, which is well aware of the political difficulty of pushing such a large package through Congress, even in a time of recession. Any tax cuts would be aimed at middle- and lower-income taxpayers, and aides have said there would be no tax increases for wealthy Americans.

While some economists consulted by Obama's team recommended spending of up to \$1 trillion over two years, a more likely figure seems to be \$850 billion. There is concern that a package that looks too large could worry financial markets, and the incoming economic team also wants to signal fiscal restraint.

In addition to spending on roads, bridges and similar construction projects, Obama is expected to seek additional funds for numerous programs that experience increased demand when joblessness rises, one Democratic official said.

Among those programs are food vouchers and other nutrition programs, health insurance, unemployment insurance and job training

programs.

Obama advisers have been contacting economists from across the political spectrum in search of advice as they assemble a spending plan that would meet Obama's goal of preserving or creating 2.5 million jobs over two years.

Among those whose opinions Obama sought were Lawrence B. Lindsey, a top economic adviser to President George W. Bush during his first term, and Harvard professor Martin Feldstein, an informal John McCain adviser and the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Ronald Reagan.

Feldstein recommended a \$400 billion investment in one year, Obama aides said, and Lindsey said the package should be in the range of \$800 billion to \$1 trillion. The aides revealed the discussions on condition of anonymity because no decisions had been reached.

Obama aides also pointed to recommendations by Mark Zandi, the lead economist at Moody's Economy.com and an informal McCain adviser who has been proposing a \$600 billion plan.

"I would err on the side of making it larger than making it smaller," Zandi said in an interview. "The size of the plan depends on the forecast - the economic outlook - and that is darkening by the day."

"Even a trillion is not inconceivable," he said.

Only one outside economist contacted by Obama aides, Harvard's Greg Mankiw, who served on Bush's Council of Economic Advisers, voiced skepticism about the need for an economic stimulus, transition officials said.

The advisers say they agree with economic forecasts that predict that without a government infusion unemployment will rise above 9 percent and not begin to come down until 2011.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, said Wednesday that Obama has indicated that Congress will get his recovery recommendations by the first of the year. □

Police: Bomb material found in Ore. suspect's home



This photo provided by the Marion County Sheriff's Office Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008, shows Bruce Turnidge, 57, the father of Joshua Turnidge, a Salem man accused of killing two Oregon law enforcement officers in a bank bombing. Bruce Turnidge was arrested Tuesday at a Jefferson, Ore. farm on bomb-making conspiracy charges, authorities said.

(AP Photo/Marion County Sheriff's Office)

By BRAD CAIN,

Associated Press Writer

SALEM, Ore. — Authorities found bomb-making material at the rural home of a man accused along with his son of killing two law enforcement officers in an explosion at a bank, a court document released Thursday says.

Some of the material found at Bruce Turnidge's home matched that used in the bomb that killed the officers and critically injured a third Dec. 12, the probable cause statement said. It also said some of the material was found in a nearby stream, with fresh foot and tire tracks leading to it.

The document says the search turned up two tubes of the explosive Tovex, which manufacturer Web

smokeless powder was used in the fabrication" of the West Coast Bank bomb.

State Police bomb technician William Hakim and Woodburn police Capt. Tom Tennant were killed in the blast. Woodburn police Chief Scott Russell lost a leg and is listed in critical condition.

Turnidge, who appeared in court for the first time Thursday, is charged with his son, Joshua, who appeared in court Tuesday. A lawyer for Bruce Turnidge, John Storkel, declined to comment after the court appearance. Neither the 57-year-old father nor his 32-year-old son has entered a plea to charges that include aggravated murder; both now have court-appointed attorneys, are being held without bail, and are to return to court Dec. 26. Authorities have not said what they believe the motive of the bombing was. A caller had threatened a bank next door to the West Coast Bank the day of the bombing. Investigators found a package they determined to be a hoax explosive device at that bank, then found the green box as they continued searching the area. A bank employee reported seeing Hakim trying to open the box while Tennant held it when the bomb exploded. Joshua Turnidge, a former Navy serviceman, was arrested Sunday at his home in Salem; his father was arrested Tuesday near Jefferson about 15 miles south, the day the rented home was searched. An officer said in the document released Thursday that he overheard Joshua's girlfriend telling Bruce Turnidge on the telephone Sunday that officers had inquired about welding equipment and barrels. When they arrived at the farm home Sunday night, Bruce Turnidge was gone, and his wife said he had gone for a walk on what officers noted was a "cold, dark, snowy" night, the document said. He returned "several hours later, offering no explanation for his sudden disappearance," it said. The search on Tuesday also turned up a badly burned laptop computer, welding machinery and a blasting cap, the document said. □

sites say is a replacement for dynamite used in mining and excavating. Bruce Turnidge in the past has worked as an excavator.

Other items turned up in a search of Turnidge's home and shop and the nearby stream were angle iron, sheet metal, metal grating, bolts, wiring and plywood with green spray paint matching the color of a metal box containing the bomb that exploded at the West Coast Bank in Woodburn, the document said. Several of the items matched materials used in the bomb, the document said, but aside from the paint it did not say which items matched.

The document said U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents believed "some type of black or

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LAS VEGAS

Continued from Page B1

"It looks like Whoville, all snowy, but with less joy and more extreme misery," said Calen Weiss, 19, who was stuck Wednesday when snow in the Cajon Pass east of Los Angeles disrupted travel on Interstate 15.

Cajon Pass and another leg of Interstate 15 near the Nevada line both reopened by midday Thursday, while Interstate 5, the major route between Northern and Southern California, partially reopened.

In Washington state, Seattle got a rare 4-inch accumulation, and in Spokane, the 17 inches piled up by 4 a.m. Thursday broke a 24-hour record total of 13 inches set in 1984. Spokane declared a "Condition Red" snow emergency, meaning crews will work around the clock until they complete a full city plow.

For Las Vegas, the storm left heavy wet accumulations of snow along the famed Strip. At least one carport toppled under the accumulated weight, authorities said, and motorists in Henderson parked their cars and walked home when tires spun as they tried to navigate slippery uphill climbs.

Thursday was the first snow day for Clark County schools since the 1979 storm, district spokesman Michael Rodriguez said.

Airlines resumed flights Thursday after canceling dozens of them late Wednesday, McCarran airport spokesman Jerry Pascual said.

"Visibility has lifted. The outlook for the day is much better," Pascual said as the sun rose Thursday. Pascual said just one flight had gotten out overnight and stranded travelers were forced to sleep on lounge seats and floors at the nation's sixth-busiest airport.

In Arizona, snow was widespread in the state's higher elevations, with 24-hour accumulations reaching 10 inches in Flagstaff by daybreak. An additional 2 to 3 inches of snow was expected. Authorities said major highways were open but advised drivers to be careful of packed snow and ice.

In western Washington, the Seattle School District had been mocked by some for closing schools Wednesday with just a threat of snow. The threat became a reality Thursday, and 4 inches of snow by midday left many drivers spinning their wheels on slippery roads. The National Weather Service said the city even had an episode of "thundersnow" when a storm cell moved across Puget Sound. □

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Rwandan massacre mastermind convicted of genocide



Theoneste Bagosora reacts as he sits in the court at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in Arusha, Tanzania, Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, where he was found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity. Bagosora the main organizer behind the 1994 slaughter of more than 500,000 people in Rwanda was convicted of genocide Thursday and sentenced to life in prison, the most significant verdict of a U.N. tribunal set up to bring the killers to justice. Bagosora also was found responsible for the deaths of former Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana and 10 Belgian peacekeepers.

(AP Photo/ICTR)

By SUKHDEV CHHATBAR and DONNA BRYSON,

Associated Press

ARUSHA, Tanzania – A former Rwandan army colonel was convicted Thursday of genocide and crimes against humanity for masterminding the killings of more than half a million people in a 100-day slaughter in 1994. Survivors in Rwanda welcomed the watershed moment in a long search for justice.

The U.N. courtroom in Tanzania was packed for the culmination of the trial of Theoneste Bagosora, the highest-ranking Rwandan official to be convicted in the genocide. Onlookers were silent as the 67-year-old was sentenced to life in prison.

“Let him think about what he did for the rest of his life,” said Jean Pierre Sagahutu, 46, in Rwanda, who lost his parents and seven siblings. He escaped by hiding in a septic tank for 2 1/2 months. Former military commanders Anatole Nsengiyumva and Aloys Ntabakuze also were found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity and sentenced to life in prison. The former chief of military operations, Brig. Gratien Kabiligi, was cleared of all charges and released. The U.N. Security Council created a tribunal in 1994 to prosecute those responsible for “genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.”

The 1994 genocide saw government troops, Hutu militia and ordinary villagers spurred on by hate messages broadcast on the radio going from village to village, butchering men, women and children. The consequences still shake the region. Hutu fighters, chased by the Tutsi military leader who is now Rwanda’s president, fled into Congo at the end of the bloodletting. Rwanda has twice invaded Congo, fueling a conflict that drew in a half-dozen African nations.

Recent clashes in eastern Congo, which borders Rwanda, have driven more than 250,000 people from their homes. Laurent Nkunda, a Congolese Tutsi and former general who quit his country’s army in 2004 to launch a rebellion, contends he is fighting to protect the region’s ethnic Tutsis from Hutu militias.

Perpetrators and victims, meanwhile, struggle to reconcile in Rwanda, a desperately poor and densely packed east African country the size of

Vermont.

On Thursday, the court said Bagosora used his position as the highest authority in Rwanda’s Ministry of Defense to direct Hutu soldiers to kill Tutsis and moderate Hutus. According to the indictment against him, Bagosora once said he was returning to Rwanda to “prepare the apocalypse.”

The court said he was responsible for the deaths of former Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana and 10 Belgian peacekeepers who tried to protect her at the outset of the genocide. Belgium had sought Bagosora’s extradition for the murder of 10 Belgian peacekeepers.

“It’s been a very important day in the tribunal here with judgments given in respect of very important cases which shed a lot of light on really what happened on that fateful day, on 6th April 1994, and the few days following thereafter,” Hassan Bubacar Jallow, chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, told French international news channel France 24.


The killings began on April 7, 1994, the day after a plane carrying ethnic Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana was shot down by unidentified attackers on its approach to Kigali airport.

About 2,500 U.N. troops were in Kigali, Rwanda’s capital, when the genocide began. Canadian Romeo Dallaire, the U.N. force commander in Rwanda, had repeatedly warned of the looming slaughter and sought more troops and authority to stop it, but was refused.

The U.N. and former President Bill Clinton have apologized for failing to intervene. Allegations the international community failed to respond quickly and decisively to crises in Sudan and elsewhere in Africa in subsequent years have been cited as proof the lessons of Rwanda were all too quickly forgotten.

Some 63,000 people are suspected of taking part in the genocide. Many have been sentenced by community-based courts, called “gacaca,” where suspects were encouraged to confess and seek forgiveness in exchange for lighter sentences.

The Tanzania-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was set up by the U.N. in 1994 to try those responsible for the killings and had its first conviction in 1997. There have been 42 judgments, of which six have been acquittals.



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Shoppers flee as police, youths clash in Athens

By ELENA BECATOROS and
DEREK GATOPOULOS,

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Masked youths set up burning barricades and threw fire bombs and chunks of marble at riot police Thursday, after a protest march erupted into new fighting that sent Christmas shoppers and panicked parents fleeing to safety.

Mothers snatched children from a carousel in the main square. Waiters stumbled from cafes choking on tear gas fired by police at rioters trying to burn the capital's Christmas tree, replaced just days ago after another tree was torched.

After two weeks of unrelenting rioting set off by the fatal police shooting of a teenager, a slogan spray-painted outside the Bank of Greece summed up the mood as Greeks prepared for Christmas: "Merry crisis and a happy new fear."

But protesters' call for European-wide demonstrations of support — urged in banners defiantly unfurled from the ancient Acropolis on Wednesday — met with no apparent response.

Thursday's clashes broke out in front of Parliament at Syntagma Square during a demonstration against police brutality. The Dec. 6 death of 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos unleashed rage that has fed off widespread dissatisfaction with economic hardship, social inequality and the unpopular conservative government's policies.

About 200 youths wearing masks put up burning barricades in the streets of the Kolonaki district, throwing gasoline bombs and hammering chunks of marble and concrete off buildings to hurl. Police answered with volleys of tear gas and stun

grenades.

As the fighting escalated, frightened parents hurried their children away from the carousel in Syntagma Square. Riot police formed a line at the replacement Christmas tree and fired tear gas to drive off youths trying to set it ablaze.

Businessmen and shoppers ran for cover on Voukourestiou Street, while motorscooter and motorcycle drivers on a nearby road screeched to a halt, blinded by the tear gas.

Athenians, some angry but many stoically resigned to the fighting, picked their way past burning barricades and rocks scattered on the streets, carrying home groceries and Christmas presents.

Many residents and shop owners in the city center now carry surgical or gas masks for protection against tear gas.

Police said they made at least three arrests as violence persisted past sundown then tailed off. They did not immediately have any information on injuries.

Since the rioting began, hundreds of businesses have been smashed, burned or looted in cities across Greece.

Shop owners say they are having trouble making ends meet because of daily demonstrations and road closures and because many customers are afraid to venture into the city center.

"Who am I supposed to complain to?" thundered Spyros Papaspyrou, owner of a shoe shop where windows were smashed last week. "Who's going to pay all these bills? I'm taking in euro 200 (\$290) a day. Do they want me to stand outside my shop with a shotgun? I can't understand why they can't arrest 80 people in the center of Athens."

His anger was aimed both at

the rioters for the destruction they have wrought and at the government and police for failing to prevent the damage.

"Honestly, I don't know (who to blame)," he said. "Christmas has been lost in the center of Athens."

Earlier Thursday, some 7,000 students, teachers and other protesters marched through the city chanting: "We are the law! We'll stay on the streets!"

One man threw out fliers with the anarchist symbol — a capital A in a circle — and the slogan: "The road to normality is closed ... due to the uprising."

The clashes have left many Athenians fearful and jumpy. Many people appeared to blame the riot police for bringing trouble to their neighborhood.

"Murderers! Cops are murderers!" screamed one middle-aged woman in Kolonaki minutes before riot police fired tear gas at youths who had dragged furniture out of a cafe and set it on fire as a barricade.

An elderly balloon seller in Syntagma Square, who would only give his name as Yiannis, said he hadn't sold any of his heart-shaped balloons because of the violence.

"I can't believe what's happening," he said. "When the protesters come by, I sometimes get really scared. I don't know why the police aren't doing anything."

Major labor unions staged work stoppages Thursday to protest the teenager's shooting and the government's economic policies. Air traffic controllers walked off the job for three hours, forcing Olympic Airlines to cancel 28 flights and reschedule 14 others. State hospitals operated with skeleton staff in a 24-hour strike. □



State schoolteachers stand next to a sprayed slogan during a demonstration by more than 7,000 people in central Athens, Greece, Thursday Dec. 18, 2008. Police fired tear gas and clashed with demonstrators in the demonstration against the Dec. 6 police killing of a teenager, which has sparked Greece's worst rioting in decades. Hundreds of shops were damaged in the riots, which also saw cars burnt and extensive vandalising of public property.

(AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)

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highest quality ham. The flavor and texture of the ham is the only one of its kind and the experience of the chef carving your personal slice is irreplaceable. The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories. The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing

salads, homemade soups starting at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$14. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages. After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Victor Nataf and his sons Daveed and Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of



their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud. The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

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New York Yankees introduce C.C. Sabathia, A.J. Burnett

NEW YORK -- Wearing a hard hat and a million-dollar grin, CC Sabathia toured the Yankee Stadium construction site Wednesday, checking out the facility where he will script the New York portion of his baseball future.

The Yankees' building process may not be complete, but they feel they have added a pair of cornerstones who will pave the way to the organization's next championship.

Representing the organization's top offseason priorities, the Yankees introduced Sabathia and fellow rotation newcomer A.J. Burnett to the New York media on Thursday, holding what may be the final news conference at the classic Yankee Stadium facility.

"I'm excited to be here," Sabathia said. "I want the ball every day, and I feel I can take on that [ace] role. With A.J., Mariano [Rivera], Joba [Chamberlain], Derek [Jeter] and [Alex Rodriguez] here, what better support can you have?"

Standing side-by-side in the downstairs Stadium Club, across 161st Street from where both pitchers will ply their

trade next season, Sabathia and Burnett were the Yankees' top two choices from the free-agent market as the club aimed to upgrade after missing the playoffs in the old ballpark's farewell season.

"This is a dream come true," Burnett said. "I'm looking forward to it; it's going to be a fun ride. I want to pitch in the postseason, and I'm here to win."

Both hurlers agreed to wear pinstripes last week, with Sabathia agreeing to terms on a seven-year, \$161 million deal and Burnett accepting a five-year, \$82.5 million pact. The pitchers were in New York to complete physicals and finalize paperwork this week.

Though the Yankees left no doubt where their intentions were with Sabathia, leaping to offer him a six-year commitment on Nov. 14 -- the first day they could do so -- the California-born left-hander played a waiting game.

His preference may have been to play on the West Coast or in the National League, but having received only one other offer, a five-year, \$100 million proposal from the Milwaukee Brewers,



Sabathia held off on accepting the Yankees' pact until he knew for sure that a California club would not enter the fray.

With the Yankees' needs in focus and negotiations stalled for weeks, general manager Brian Cashman took the initiative. Meeting with Sabathia twice in Las Vegas during the Winter Meetings, Cashman was then invited to the hurler's home in Vallejo, Calif., approximately 30 miles outside of San Francisco. "When the opportunity was given, that's a flight I had to take," said Cashman, who quickly cleared his schedule and dashed out of the Bellagio hotel.

There, Cashman met with Sabathia's family and pitched some of the benefits of calling New York home, including entertainment options, educational opportunities and the leafy suburbs from which to commute. The sales pitch clicked, and with another year and \$21 million on the table, Sabathia agreed to wear Yankees pinstripes.

Jeter also helped alleviate concerns about the city lifestyle in conversations with Sabathia last month.

"You can stay out there six months in the offseason and still be a West Coast guy, right?" Jeter said. "I think one of the

questions that a lot of people have when you come to New York is they have families that don't necessarily want to live in the city. There's a lot of different places you can live."

Sabathia was 17-10 with a 2.70 ERA last season for the Indians and Brewers. After switching teams in a July trade, he went 11-2 with a 1.65 ERA down the stretch in helping the Brewers make the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

With their top target in the fold, the Yankees then moved quickly to secure Burnett, who was weighing an offer to join the Braves.

New York agreed to commit a fifth contractual year to the right-hander, who opted out of his contract with the Toronto Blue Jays after setting a new career high in victories. That fifth year was enough to land Burnett, with the right-hander accepting a \$82.5 million pact to remain on the East Coast.

Geographical proximity played a large role -- Burnett's wife, Karen, dislikes flying, and the Braves knew they were operating at a disadvantage because they could not move Atlanta closer to the Burnett's Maryland residence. New York is only a three-hour car ride away, and now it will become home.

The Yankees held Burnett in high regard, especially this season, when he was 18-10 with a 4.07 ERA in 35 games for Toronto.

They had a tantalizing look at him when he went 3-1 with a 1.64 ERA in five starts against the Yankees. Just as importantly, Burnett is 5-0 lifetime against the Red Sox; in 10 big league seasons, Burnett is 87-76 with a 3.81 ERA.

On adjusting to life in New York and dealing with the increased media scrutiny, neither pitcher felt they would have trouble making the transition.

"I've talked to guys like Jeter, guys who have been here," Sabathia said.

"I'll answer questions whether there's 100 reporters at my locker or five. I'm not afraid of telling you how I feel, whether I pitched good or bad."

"I think I'll fit right in," Burnett said. "I grew up in this game. You don't point fingers, you take the blame like a man and be accountable."

Following the introductory news conference, there was expected to be a photo opportunity across 161st Street, where Sabathia and perhaps Burnett will catch some of their first glimpses at the Yankees' new home -- rising quickly in anticipation of its first game action in April 2009.



Pregnant Lindsay Davenport to miss Australia Open



NEW YORK- Triple grand slam winner Lindsay Davenport has pulled out of next month's Australian Open because she is pregnant with her second child.

The 32-year-old former world number one has confirmed she will now take an indefinite break from the WTA Tour.

"Of course this unexpected but exciting surprise now means I will be putting tennis on hold for the foreseeable future," Davenport said in a statement on Wednesday.

The American returned to the women's tour in 2008 after giving birth to her first child, Jagger, and has since won four titles.

Although Davenport has not played since the U.S. Open, fuelling speculation she was ready to retire, she entered the Australian Open last week.

The Californian has won 55 career titles and finished 1998, 2001, 2004, and 2005 as the world's top-ranked player. She is married to former All-American tennis player Jon Leach. □

Ole Miss' Kennedy arrested after allegedly punching cab driver

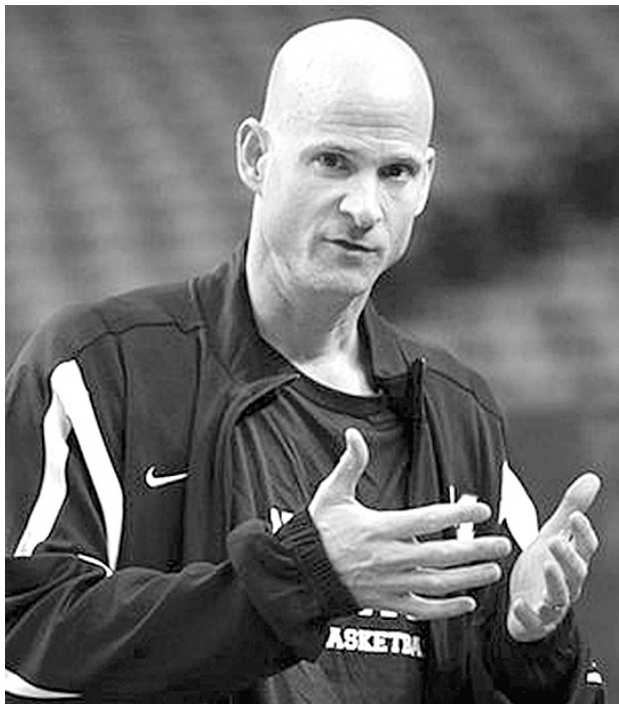
CINCINNATI- Mississippi men's basketball coach Andy Kennedy has been arrested in Cincinnati after a cab driver complained that the coach punched him and shouted racial slurs.

A pretrial hearing has been set for Jan. 16.

Kennedy's lawyer entered a written plea of not guilty in Hamilton County Municipal Court on Thursday. He said Kennedy emphatically denies the allegations.

The complaint filed in Municipal Court alleges that Kennedy assaulted Mohammed Ould Jiddou and "punched victim with a closed fist while shouting racial slurs."

The coach was arrested early Thursday. Kennedy is in Cincinnati for his school's game in the SEC/Big East invitational Thursday night against No. 9 Louisville.



Rafael Furcal takes Dodgers' offer for \$30 million

LOS ANGELES - Rafael Furcal accepted a three-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers worth at least \$30 million on Wednesday, and the Atlanta Braves accused the star shortstop of reneging on a deal they thought was agreed to earlier this week.

Furcal can earn an additional \$3 million if he remains healthy during the three guaranteed seasons of the contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal was still not yet official.

A day earlier, Furcal had been close to accepting a three-year, \$30 million offer from the Atlanta Braves, his original major league team.

"From our perspective, we reached an agreement Monday night," Braves general manager Frank Wren said.

"They asked for a term sheet for us to sign on Tuesday morning, and we sent over the signed term sheet. It was then that his agent [Paul Kinzer] informed us that [Kinzer's] partner had been in contact with the Dodgers.

"We still think there are players out there who can help us put the team together. Obviously, we began the offseason



thinking about acquiring a power bat in the outfield, but when we had a chance to get a dynamic leadoff hitter and a solid fielder like Furcal, we took a very hard look at it." Earlier Wednesday, Kinzer said Furcal had never accepted the Braves' offer.

"They know we didn't have a signed contract, that we didn't have even a verbal agreement. We had, 'Things look very good and Raffy's going to sleep on it,'" Kinzer said after a news conference for another client, Francisco Rodriguez.

Furcal gets \$6.5 million next season, \$8.5 million in 2010 and \$12 million in 2011.

The deal includes a \$12 million team option for 2012, and the option would become guaranteed if he has 600 plate appearances in 2011. He also can earn an additional \$1 million annually, including the option year, if he remains healthy.

Furcal also will get a \$3 million payment by the end of the January following the contract's completion. He has a limited no-trade provision allowing him to block deals to a specified number of teams.

The 31-year-old switch-hitter, coming off a \$39 million, three-year deal with the Dodgers, played for the

Braves from 2000-05.

Furcal hit .357 with five homers and 16 RBIs last season, but was limited to 36 games and 143 at-bats by back problems. He had back surgery July 3 and was sidelined until the season's final week, but started each of the Dodgers' eight postseason games, hitting .258 with one homer, three RBIs and nine runs scored.

Furcal was hitting .366 through May 5 before injuring his back. He reached base in his first 30 games of the season, becoming the first Dodger to accomplish that feat since Duke Snider in his first 34 games of the 1955 season.

Furcal still owns a home in the Atlanta area, but owns another in nearby La Canada Flintridge as well.

Los Angeles hesitated to make an offer of more than two years because of Furcal's medical history, but general manager Ned Colletti has been saying for weeks that signing the shortstop was his immediate top priority.

Colletti can turn his attention to pitching and free-agent outfielder Manny Ramirez. A pair of Los Angeles starters, Derek Lowe and Brad Penny, became free agents. □

Hall of Famer Sammy Baugh dead at 94

LUBBOCK- Slingin' Sammy Baugh, the ultimate three-way threat who revolutionized the use of the forward pass as a Hall of Fame quarterback for the Washington Redskins, died Wednesday night. He was 94.

Baugh, who had numerous health issues, died at Fisher County Hospital in Rotan, according to his son, David Baugh. He said his father had battled Alzheimer's disease and dementia for several years and recently had been ill with kidney problems, low blood pressure and double pneumonia.

"It wasn't the same Sam we all knew," his son told The Associated Press. "He just finally wore out."

Sammy Baugh was the last surviving member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's inaugural class.

After starring at TCU, "Slingin' Sammy" played with the Redskins from 1937 to 1952, leading them to the NFL title in his rookie season and again in 1942.

Baugh was the best all-around player in an era when such versatility was essential. In 1943, he led the league in passing, punting and defensive interceptions. In one game, he threw four touchdown passes and intercepted four as well. He threw six touchdowns passes in a game twice. His 51.4-yard punting average in 1940 is still the NFL record.

"There's nobody any better than Sam Baugh was in pro football," Don Maynard, a fellow West Texas Hall of Famer who played for Baugh, said in a 2002 interview. "When I see somebody picking the greatest player around, to me, if they didn't go both ways, they don't really deserve to be nominated. I always ask, 'Well, how'd he do on defense? How was his punting?'"

When Baugh entered the NFL, the forward pass was so rare that it was unveiled mostly in desperate situations. But Baugh turn the pass into a regular feature of the offensive game plan.

As a rookie in 1937, he completed a record 81 passes (about seven a game) and led the league with 1,127 yards. By contrast, only six quarterbacks averaged three completions a game that year. He went on to lead the league in passing six times.

Baugh still holds Redskins records for career touchdown passes (187) and completion percentage in a season (70.3). His 31 interceptions on defense are third on the team's career list. □

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Calendar Period: December 2008 - January 2009

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront -US\$26,000	week#51 - La Cabana - Studio R#238bPoolOceanviewUS\$7,000	week# 50 - Paradise Beach- 1Bdr R#306,GardenView! -US\$6,500
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront US\$35,000	PlatinumPl. W#51 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, Oceanview-US\$45,000	week# 50-Paradise Beach 2BTH. R#217,PoolOcean- US\$12,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$30,000	PlatinumPl. W#52 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 1- Paradise Beach-1Bdr R#227,OceanFront- US\$15,000
week#49-La Cabana - studio R#209b OceanView- US\$5,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,Oceanview- US\$12,000	week# 48 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#207 OceanFront- US\$7,625
week#50 -La Cabana - 1 Bdr R#137c - OceanView-US\$6,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000	week#52 -DiviPhoenix - studio R#110-OceanFront-US\$11,000
Week#51-Divi Phoenix - 1 Bdr R#1401, OceanView - US\$13,500	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000	week# 1- DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr. R#206,OceanFront- US\$20,000
week#50 & 51 La Cabana-2 Bdr. R#414,PoolOcean US\$30,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$30,000	week# 51-CasaDelMar aw-1Bdr. R#1329,PoolView US\$10,000
week#51-La Cabana - studio R#416b,PoolOcean-US\$7,500	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000	week# 50 - RIU Palace - 1Bdr R#566,Oceanview-US\$6,000
week#50-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#227a-OceanView- US\$5,500	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week#1 - Riu Palace - 2Bdr R#269-OceanFront- US\$28,000
week#50-La Cabana -1Bdr R#138c-PoolOcean-US\$6,000	week# 50 - Renaissance - 1Bdr. R#2512,Gardenview-US\$9,000	week#48 - Playa Linda -1Bdr R#154-Oceanview-US\$10,000
week#52-La Cabana- 1Bdr R#118a-PoolOcean- US\$12,000	week# 47 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2322,OceanView- US\$5,000	week#48-DiviDutchVillage -2Bdr R#76 - PoolView - US\$12,000
Floating w#2-17 Occidental Gra. 1Bdr/dlx-PoolOcean-US\$13,000	week# 48 - Renaissance - 1Bdr. R#2127,PoolOcean- US\$6,000	week# 1-DiviLinks-2Bdr penth. Duplex,Poolview - US\$45,000
Floating w#18-50-Occidental Gr. JuniorS-PoolOcean-US\$11,000	week# 1 & 2 Renaissance-1 Bdr. R#2508,Gardenv.-US\$9,000p.w.	week# 52 - DiviLinks - 1Bdr. R#2206,PoolOcean-US\$15,000
Floating-18-26/36-50-Occidental 1Bdr/dlx,PoolOcean-US\$10,000	week# 51 - Renaissance - 1 Bdr. R#2311,PoolOcean- US\$12,000	week# 50 & 51-DiviLinks -1 Bdr. R#4226,Poolview-US\$16,000pw
Floating W# 1-17-Occidental Gr. studio,PoolOceanv-US\$9,000	week# 51-Aruban Resort- 1 Bdr. R#4584g, PoolView - US\$9,475	week# 52 & 1- DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$17,000pw
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Oceanview- US\$23,000	week#51&52.ArubanResort-1Br R#4586, PoolView-US\$9,475pw	week# 2 & 3-DiviLinks- 1 Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$15,000p.w
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Gardenview- US\$20,000	week# 1 & 2,ArubanResort-1Bdr R#4585,Poolview- US\$8,475pw	week# 49-Renaissance-1Bdrdlx R#2349,OceanFront,US\$10,000
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide- US\$23,000	week# 2,Aruban Resort-1 Bdr. R#4584 ,PoolView-US\$.8,475	week#50-ParadiseBeach-1Bdr. R#101,PoolOcean- US\$10,000
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$30,000	week# 51,Aruban Resort - 1 Bdr R#3525, PoolView - US\$9,475	week# 50&51-Costa Linda-2Bdr R#3007,PoolOcean-US\$50,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$50,000	week#52,Aruban Resort-1Bdr. R# 4522,PoolView- US\$9,475	week#2-ParadiseBeach-2Bdr R#207,PoolOcean - US\$15,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000	week#49&50,ArubanResort-2Bd R#1552PoolView-US\$12,500pw	week# 3&4 ParadiseBeach-1Br R#101,P.Ocean-US\$12,000pw
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000	week#51&52,ArubanResort-2Br. R#1552PoolView US\$13,500pw	week#49 -Renaissance-1Bdr R#2144,Gardenview US\$4,000
PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$140,000	week#49&50,ArubanResort-1Br. R#1515,PoolView - US\$14,000	week#1through52AmsterDM-2B R#213,P.Ocean - US\$520,000
PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$125,000	week# 49,Paradise Beach-1Bdr. R#101,PoolOcean-US\$7,800	week#18-50.DiviVillage-1Bdr R#2E,Poolview-US\$10,000

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Betancourt pide a virgen de Guadalupe por rehenes en Colombia

MEXICO DF (Reuters) - La ex candidata presidencial de Colombia Ingrid Betancourt pidió el jueves en México a la virgen de Guadalupe por la libertad de los rehenes que siguen secuestrados por la guerrilla de las FARC.

Betancourt, rescatada en julio junto con tres estadounidenses y 11 militares colombianos tras permanecer seis años cautiva a manos de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), visitó la basílica de Guadalupe en la capital mexicana.

“Primero, vengo a agradecerle, más que a pedirle”, dijo la ex rehén de 46 años, una fiel devota de la virgen a

la que le rezó mientras se encontraba secuestrada. “Y de pronto a pedirle que me ayude con la liberación de mis compañeros”, agregó.

Antes de presenciar una misa en la basílica, la más visitada en el mundo después de la de San Pedro -según la Iglesia mexicana-, la política dijo que esperaba que la virgen tocara el corazón de los guerrilleros izquierdistas, que aún tienen en su poder a 28 rehenes por motivos políticos.

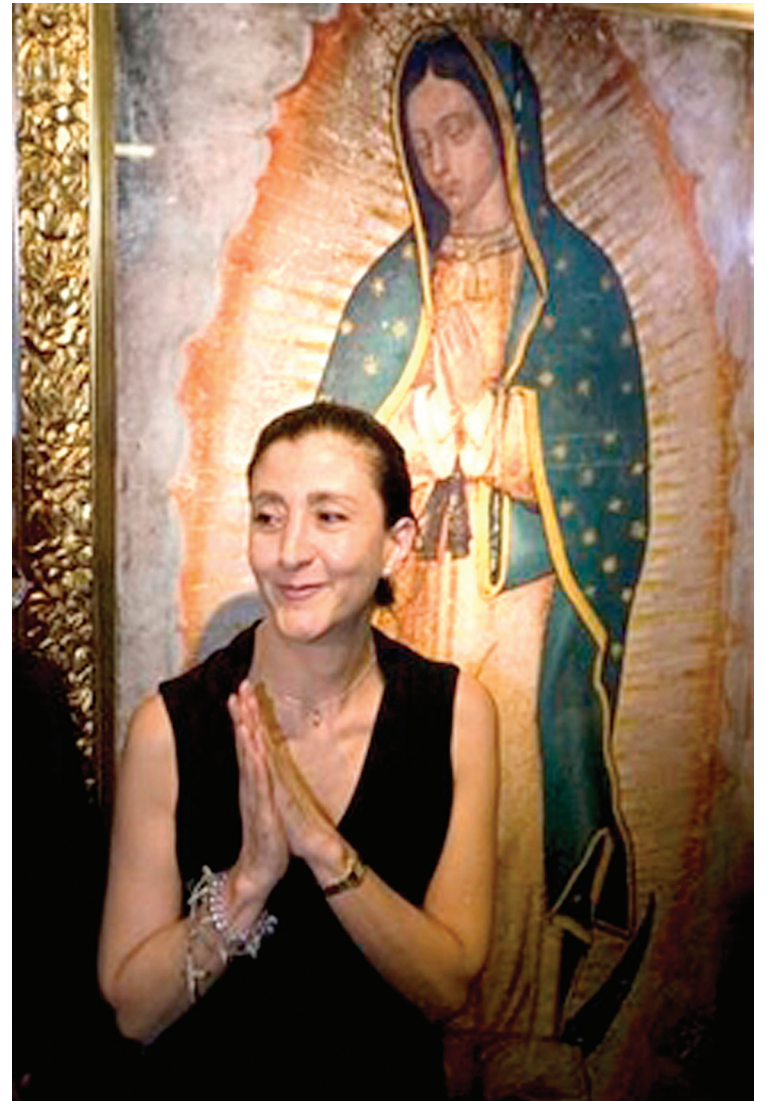
Las FARC buscan un acuerdo con el Gobierno colombiano para intercambiar a rehenes por miles de guerrilleros encarcelados.

En su visita al templo, la ex

candidata presidencial escuchó frente al altar principal las explicaciones del rector de la basílica, Diego Monroy, sobre la virgen, que según los católicos apareció en el siglo 16 ante el campesino indígena Juan Diego, beatificado en el 2002 por el Papa Juan Pablo II.

Betancourt, que también tiene planeado un encuentro con el presidente Felipe Calderón en su visita de dos días a México, realizó semanas atrás una gira por otros países de América Latina para impulsar la liberación de los rehenes. □

La ex candidata presidencial de Colombia Ingrid Betancourt durante su visita a la basílica de Guadalupe en Ciudad de México, 18 dic 2008. Betancourt pidió el jueves en México a la virgen de Guadalupe por la libertad de los rehenes que siguen secuestrados por la guerrilla de las FARC. REUTERS/Jorge Dan Lopez (MEXICO)



“Metro” de Santo Domingo hará prueba final con pasajeros

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - El “metro” de Santo Domingo comenzará el lunes, y hasta el 6 de enero, a operar en una última fase de prueba transportando gratis a los pasajeros antes de quedar finalmente en operación, anunciaron el jueves las autoridades.

“Habrá una apertura pre-comercial totalmente gratis para la población hasta el día 6 de enero de 2009”, manifestó a los periodistas el director de la Oficina para el Reordenamiento del Transporte (Oporet), Diandino Peña.

Durante los 16 días de prueba circularán 10 trenes con capacidad para 650 pasajeros cada uno, con una frecuencia de llegada a cada estación de cinco a seis minutos. El tren lleva tramos subterráneos, otros a superficie y algunos más elevados.

Según sus explicaciones, luego del 6 de enero se evaluará el sistema del “metro” para determinar si es factible o no iniciarse la apertura comercial definitiva.

El medio de transporte es la obra cumbre del presidente Leonel Fernández, quien manifestó en los inicios de la construcción que fue uno de los sueños que forjó cuando vivía en Nueva York. El mandatario anunció que en el 2009 se iniciarán los trabajos de dos nuevas líneas.

La línea ya construida recorrerá 14 kilómetros y cruzará la ciudad de norte a sur, la segunda conectará la ciudad de oeste a este y la tercera irá desde Haina, 15 kilómetros al sur de la ciudad, hasta Santiago, 155 kilómetros al norte.

Cuando hace dos años se calculó el costo previsto de la primera línea eran unos 710 millones de dólares, pero desde entonces no se ha actualizado. □

Fuerte temblor sacude zona central de Chile

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP) - Un fuerte temblor sacudió el jueves la zona central de Chile pero las autoridades dijeron que no se produjeron víctimas ni daños.

La directora de la Oficina Nacional de Emergencia, Carmen Fernández, dijo que los informes recibidos en su oficina no dan cuenta de víctimas o daños de consideración en ningún lugar.

Dijo que las interrupciones del servicio telefónico en algunos sectores fue causado por sobrecarga de tráfico, y no por daños en las instalaciones.

El Instituto de Geología de los Estados Unidos dijo que el temblor se registró a las 18.19 de Chile con una magnitud de 6,3, pero el Instituto de Sismología de la Universidad de Chile informó que fue de 5,9.

El movimiento se sintió en una franja de unos 550 kilómetros del angosto territorio chileno,



Una excavadora retirando piedras caídas a la carretera cerca de Heredia, en Costa Rica, el 20 de noviembre de 2004. Foto: Adalberto Roque/AFP

incluyendo esta capital de 6 millones de personas.

La Oficina de Emergencia del gobierno calificó el movimiento sísmico de moderado y dijo que no provocó víctimas ni daños, aunque causó alarma entre la población en algunos puntos. El epicentro estuvo a unos 70 kilómetros al norte del puerto de Valparaíso, la segunda ciudad de Chile, a

120 kilómetros al noroeste de Santiago

El temblor se sintió moderadamente en la capital, pero causó alarma especialmente entre las personas que se encontraban en edificios de altura.

Se sintió con menor magnitud en varias ciudades del norte del país. El movimiento fue seguido de dos réplicas, una de ellas con magnitud 5,8. □



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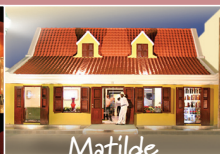
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